

confirmed with Cherry Shaw, Assistant County Attorney the remainder of the changes were simply for clarification.

- Commissioner Sauls asked Staff how many vacant lots around the County's rural lakes would be on a well; and who would be affected by these changes.
- Jamie Shekel, City of Tallahassee Utilities stated he doesn't have a specific number to answer that question. However, the wells drilled near a public water system, includes the City system, a Talquin system or any public use system. Commissioner Sauls confirmed this matter is speaking to 'public' systems, then and not lakes.
- Mr. Shekel stated only 14 wells out of 750 would be affected using 2004 figures. His Dept. would request they connect to the public water system which is another way of protecting the Aquifer.
- Commissioner Grippa thanked City Staff again and mentioned one of the issues that came up was horse farms and their owners' option to choose well water for their horses.
- Corrinne Taylor, Aquifer Protection Coordinator informed Commissioner Grippa there was a provision allowing for a possible exemption. Exemption decisions would be made by Ms. Taylor and her Staff.
- County Administrator Alam asked Commissioner Grippa if he would prefer these exemption decisions to come before the County Commission or another entity.
- Commissioner Grippa asked if the City should be authorizing exemption to County Code.
- County Attorney Thiele reported the City has been authorized to do so by Interlocal Agreement, acting as the County's agent.

Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner Winchester to approve Option 1: Conduct the second of two public hearings and adopt the attached proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Article XIV, Division 1, of the Leon County Code of Laws regarding Aquifer/Wellhead Protection. The motion carried 6-0, with Commissioner Proctor absent.

#### **Citizens to be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items (6-minute limit)**

##### **Speakers:**

Mr. Jeff Wilson, sent an e-mail re: property adjacent to his. Received a letter from the builder re: concerned about run-off and they would try to protect his property. Line of trees that will be destroyed to put a driveway in. Troubled by the water run-off probabilities. Shouldn't be construction on that land.

**The following addresses the Healthcare Issue**

A large number of citizens belonging to Tallahassee Equality Action Ministry (TEAM) chose Mr. Barry Munroe and Pastor Brant Copeland as their spokespersons. (42 TEAM members that filled out 'speaker cards' and stayed until the end of the meeting to take advantage of the 6 minutes of time allotted to speak decided to waive their time so Mr. Munroe could express their views.)

Mr. Barry Munroe, TEAM Spokesperson stated that TEAM is a group of over 16 congregations and religious organizations representing more than 13,000 citizens. They have been examining the local healthcare issues and transportation in Tallahassee and taking the issues and proposed solutions to Commissioners individually as well as to providers.

- 1) Team would like the Commission to direct the Health Advisory Board to complete a Comprehensive Health Plan for the uninsured and to submit it to the Board by March 31, 2006. Requests the Board discuss and submit a timeline for the November 22, 2005 Commission Meeting.
- 2) Team would like the elements of the Plan include:
  - Primary preventative care for the uninsured at 200% of the federal poverty level
  - Adult dental care, mental health care and hospitalization
  - Clear outline of the current primary care providers, Bond and Neighborhood Health Services
  - Open Process for how the money will be spent
- 3) Studies have recommended that a 1/2 cent sales tax is the appropriate funding source. This recommendation is currently under study by the Primary Health Advisory Board.

TEAM is concerned that the Primary Health Advisory Board completed a draft Plan approximately 5 months ago; but, since that time has done nothing. TEAM is requesting the Board get the Comprehensive Health Plan back on track. TEAM would also like to see:

- Local study of the actual number of uninsured in Leon County.
- Give voters the opportunity to decide to tax themselves by agreeing to schedule a referendum of a 1/2 cent sales tax replacement on the November 2006 ballot. This is extremely important; they would like the ballot language prepared by May 31, 2006.

Studies indicate that for every dollar spent sending citizens to Primary Healthcare Clinics instead of Emergency Rooms taxpayers would save a tremendous amount of money.

- Commissioner Grippa suggested TEAM's goals are lofty and righteous after apologizing for being unable to attend TEAM's Meeting. Commissioner Grippa stated TEAM's desire to see everyone in Leon County receive affordable healthcare has issues that need to be addressed:
  - a) How is it delivered
  - b) Who is responsible for it

c) How do you pay for it

- Commissioner Grippa alleged part of what is causing the uninsured healthcare problem is the escalating healthcare insurance rates. Commissioner Grippa gave Capital Health Plan credit in part for no rate increase this year and suggested TEAM members give the process more time. Commissioner Grippa stated that TEAM members could attend the Advisory Board meetings first to see what Commissioner DePuy and Mr. O'Brien have accomplished.

Mr. Munroe reported that TEAM has already examined the healthcare problems in Leon County extensively and one of the graphic examples is:

- Specialists in Leon County put a 90 day moratorium on 'referrals'. Citizens who needed care in Leon County could not get it. Unemployed individuals could not get care.
- Employment based healthcare is a significant part of the solution; but it is not the full solution, since the unemployed receive no employment based benefits.
- Commissioner Grippa stated the We Care Network has had success with providing specialty needs; but, if that process has broken down Commissioner DePuy will speak to that. Commissioner Grippa indicated Bond and Neighborhood Services were available.

Mr. Munroe reported that both Bond and Neighborhood Services Clinics are 'at capacity'. This means they don't have sufficient funding or staff. TEAM is asking the Commissioners to direct the Primary Healthcare Board to look more extensively at the issues that relate to healthcare delivery in Leon County. This County doesn't want to grapple with a major crisis with their hospital like our neighboring county.

- Commissioner Rackleff agreed with Mr. Munroe's request for the Board to set some actual deadlines to address healthcare issues because the unmet needs keep growing. Commissioner Rackleff stated he and Commissioner Thael committed to address TEAM's concerns at the meeting believing them to be reasonable.

Commissioner Rackleff moved, seconded by Commissioner Thael, (who passed the gavel to Commissioner Sauls to be able to second the motion) a four-part motion to track the four paragraphs presented in a policy paper written by TEAM: 1) Get the drafting of the Health Plan for the Uninsured back on track and submit it to the Commission by March 31, 2006; 2) Have a discussion item for the Comprehensive Plan on the November 22, 2005 agenda that focuses on four elements: primary preventative care for uninsured at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or below; adult dental and mental health care, as well as hospitalization; outlines for the role of the current Primary Care providers; and an impartial and open process for how the health care funds will be spent; 3) Develop idea of having a referendum of a half cent sales tax for November 2006 and have ballot language ready

by May 31, 2006; and 4) Meet with TEAM on February 1, 2006 to discuss progress of Comprehensive Health Plan.

- Commissioner Thael acknowledged his commitment to TEAM was to request an agenda item to have this discussion on November 22, 2005. Considering the November 22, 2005 meeting is the Board Reorganization meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing for Fallschase the December 13, 2005 meeting would be a better date.

Commissioner Thael asked the maker of the motion to consider having that discussion instead at the December 13, 2005 meeting.

- Commissioner Thael stated the figure of 7,000 citizens without health care was underestimated. Commissioner Thael stated the County is currently providing services for citizens at 150% of the federal poverty level and the health care issue is a very serious, potentially frightening issue. Commissioner Thael reported part of the problem is that the current system of funding is through the MSTU.
- Commissioner Thael stated current providers aren't answering their phones due to insufficient funding. Commissioner Thael stressed the demands of meeting the basic primary health care needs of the citizens of Leon County and surrounding areas along with dental and mental health care needs involves major amounts of money. Commissioner Thael stated he agrees the Board should have a full discussion on bringing forward a Comprehensive Healthcare Plan; and could perhaps look at a ¼ cents tax increase as a possibility.
- Commissioner Grippa stated the Board sees the need for this issue to be addressed; but there is not sufficient data to know how much money is needed to work on this issue. Commissioner Grippa stated he cannot support a tax without first having a plan in place.
- Commissioner DePuy thanked the citizens from TEAM for making the time to come to the meeting and he agrees and supports some, but not all the things TEAM suggests doing. Commissioner DePuy reported he does not support raising the sales tax to support indigent healthcare. Commissioner DePuy appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Primary Healthcare Implementation Advisory Board (PHIAB) and voiced the PHIAB Board's welcoming of public input. Commissioner DePuy stated he is anxious to hear the views of TEAM members for whom this issue is a vocation. Commissioner DePuy does not support the motion, and has two other concerns:
  - A neighborhood health clinic is open at the old Lincoln High School. However, the City charges rent for the use of a public building to render healthcare services to the needy.
  - Hours are mandated by the City. At times when citizens need healthcare, the building may be closed by the City.

- Commissioner DePuy stated the issue that needs to be addressed is what level of the health care issue is the county residents' responsibility – and at what level is it the responsibility of the state and the federal government. Commissioner DePuy stated TEAM members need to be in front of the just-mentioned organizations asking for consideration from those levels of government also. Thanked TEAM for keeping this issue in the forefront of consideration.
- Mr. Munroe asked the Board to simply consider putting the Comprehensive Health plan back on track and detach the tax issue a Plan would have to address a funding process.
- Commissioner DePuy stated unfortunately that is not the motion on the floor. The motion is for the Board to move forward on a sales tax referendum.
- Commissioner Sauls agreed the sales tax issue concerned her also. She was unable to attend the TEAM meeting due to attending another meeting; and was troubled by the tone of some of the e-mails she received for not attending the meeting. Commissioner Sauls stated all the Commissioners are concerned about healthcare. Commissioner Sauls stated she does not support a sales tax increase.

Commissioner Rackleff amended his motion to include all items mentioned except for #3 which refers to the half cent sales tax referendum.

Speaker:

Carol Wortham, President of AARP Chapter 3699 told Commissioner Grippa she is delighted she has Medicare and doesn't know what she'd do without it. She's gambling that she's 84 and is in good health. Therefore the \$100 premium she would have to pay living on a limited income in addition to the \$79 she would pay through her regular deductions is more than she can afford. Doesn't envy the Board members their jobs; but asks them to give very serious consideration to health care issue. Charity begins at home. She would like to think it begins locally.

Brant Copeland thanks the Board. Reminded the Board TEAM represents 25 congregations of various faiths. Apologized for any inappropriate e-mails. TEAM is not going away and will continue to address this issue in particular and hope that everyone can come to one mind about it for the good of the people in Leon County who need this help.

- Commissioner Rackleff re-stated his commitment to TEAM members. Will continue to work toward resolving health care issues. Doesn't agree some other level of government should be taking care of the health problems of this community. Commissioner Rackleff stated it is appropriate for this County government to develop a Comp Healthcare System for the uninsured in Leon

County and to raise the money locally through taxes that are rational, equitable, and sufficient to fund the system. Thanks TEAM for being thoughtful and authoritative and considers their goals a challenge to the Commission he for one hopes to live up to.

- Commissioner Thael stated his advocacy for primary healthcare for uninsured citizens began many years ago. The commitment to look at a sales tax is established in law. Commissioner Thael Stated the Board needs to let the people decide about the sales tax and referenced many options other counties have implemented. Commissioner Thael hopes the City would step up also. More Board discussion ensued.

Commissioner Grippa moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner DePuy to ask the PHIAB Board to come back to the Commission with their recommendations on items detailed by TEAM as well as any other health care issue ideas they have by March 31, 2006.

- Commissioner Rackleff stated he votes against the substitute motion since he believes it is a means of delaying a decision on this matter.
- Commissioner Thael stated passing this substitute motion enables the Board to evade a public discussion at the Commission level.

More Board discussion ensued.

County Administrator Alam asked the maker of the motion to change the due date of the report from PHIAB to March 1, 2006 so it can be included in the Budget Recommendation.

The motion was amended to change the date of the report from PHIAB due to the Board to March 1, 2006. Also, request a report from an economist detailing what different incomes would pay under the sales tax. Motion carried 3-2, with Commissioners Rackleff and Thael opposed. Commissioner Winchester out of chambers and Commissioner Proctor absent.

Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner DePuy to reconsider his motion. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Thael opposed, Commissioner Winchester out of chambers, and Commissioner Proctor absent.

Commissioner Grippa withdrew his motion.

- Commissioner Sauls stated the motion that is on the floor is the four issues that are stated by TEAM in the memo on healthcare.

Commissioner Thael offered a friendly amendment to the maker of the motion to consider directing the PHIAB Board to bring back their recommendations by March 1, 2006 and that a consent agenda item be placed on the December 13, 2005 Meeting.

Commission DePuy moved a substitute motion, seconded by Commissioner Sauls to give the Comprehensive Health Plan issue to the PHIAB Board to report back their recommendation by March 1, 2006. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Rackleff opposed, Commissioner Winchester out of chambers and Commissioner Proctor absent.

### County Attorney

#### ADD-ON:

#### Consideration of Correspondence and Information Regarding Presbyterian Retirement Communities

County Attorney Thiele stated TEFRA Hearings need to be scheduled. One was scheduled earlier for the Research and Development Authority that will be scheduled on November 22, 2005. Also the Board is requested to have a similar public hearing on a revision to the underlying bonds that go for Westminster Oaks. County Attorney is requesting the Board to schedule the Hearing.

Commissioner Grippa moved, seconded by Commissioner Sauls to schedule a TEFRA Hearing for November 22, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. The motion carried 5-0, with Commissioner Winchester out of chambers and Commissioner Proctor absent.

### County Administrator

For the public record wanted to note the Governor's Office has included in the budget \$42.6 million for Capital Circle improvement. Wanted to publicly thanks Senator Prescott and Jim Davis. Congressman Boyd worked with Staff regarding receipt of \$16.1 for the Capital Circle Project in Leon County also. Wanted to publicly thank Congressman Boyd. Jim Davis is working on TRIP funding. Recommends a Resolution for Senator Prescott and Congressman Boyd.

- Commissioner Grippa asked if the County would lose the \$42.6 million budgeted for Capital Circle if the City doesn't want to extend Capital Circle to Orange Avenue. Commissioner Grippa requested Mr. Jim Davis, Blueprint 2000, answer in writing what happens to the \$42 million funding the County has received if the City does not agree to the project change.

### Discussion Items by Commissioners